

Oracle Ridge Mine Tailing Storage Facility
Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-102110
Place ID 9662, LTF No. 79361
Significant Amendment

I. Introduction:

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) proposes to issue an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the subject facility that covers the life of the facility, including operational, closure, and post-closure periods unless suspended or revoked pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A213. The requirements contained in this permit will allow the permittee to comply with the two key requirements of the Aquifer Protection Program: 1) meet Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) at the Point of Compliance (POC); and 2) demonstrate Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT). BADCT's purpose is to employ engineering controls, processes, operating methods or other alternatives, including site-specific characteristics (i.e., the local subsurface geology), to reduce discharge of pollutants to the greatest degree achievable before they reach the aquifer or to prevent pollutants from reaching the aquifer.

II. Permittee & Facility Location:

Wedgetail Operations LLC
14319 N. Control Road
Summerhaven, AZ 85619

III. Facility Description:

The TSF received tailing from the Oracle Ridge Copper mine, an underground mine located beneath Marble Peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains, approximately 2 miles north of Summerhaven, Arizona and approximately 8½ miles south of the Town of Oracle, Arizona in Pima County, Arizona. The mine stopped operating in 1996 and TSF ceased operations at the same time. The TSF operated from 1990 to 1996. It was capped and closed between 2007 and 2011.

Wedgetail Operations is conducting exploration activities at the mine site. There are no plans at this time to initiate mining or to operate the tailing storage facility. With the exception of materials required to maintain the cap placed on the TSF, this permit does not authorize placement of any materials on the closed TSF.

IV. Amendment Description:

The purpose of this amendment is for the following reasons:

1. Transfer the permit to the new owner being Wedgetail Operations LLC
2. Update the APP including the removal of facilities that do not exist and are not planned to be constructed; and
3. Update the financial assurance based on these revisions.

The reduction in monitoring frequency makes this a significant amendment as per A.A.C. R18-9-A211(B)(4).

V. Regulatory Status:

The facility is in compliance with the permit and has been in temporary cessation since April 2016. The facility was in compliance at the time of last inspection on July 28, 2010.

VI. Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT):

The TSF is the only permitted APP facility. The TSF was closed between 2007 and 2011. As per Section 3.0, the permittee shall evaluate the efficacy of the current cap, and stormwater control features present at the TSF.

VII. Compliance with Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS):

The pollutant management area (PMA) is drawn around the footprint of the TSF. Two non-hazardous point of compliance (POC) wells (MW-5 and MW-6) will be monitored for compliance with the aquifer water quality standards (AWQS). Two additional wells (MW-2 and MW-4) will serve as data continuity wells.